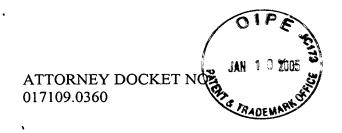
IFW



PATENT APPLICATION Serial No. 10/688,675

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HUMBLE, et al.

Serial No.:

10/688,675

Filing Date:

October 17, 2003

Group Art Unit:

3739

Title:

ì

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REMOVING A PROTECTIVE COVER FROM A MEDICAL

INSTRUMENT

MAIL STOP

Commissioner for Patents

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Name:

Candisa P. Poskett

Date:

1-5-05

REQUEST FOR STATUS

Please advise the status of the above-identified patent application. The Filing Receipt was received March 29, 2004. Applicant is currently awaiting a first Office Action.

PATENT APPLICATION Serial No. 10/688,675

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 017109.0360

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REMARKS

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.702(a)(1), it has been over fourteen months since the filing date of this Application and a Notification under 35 U.S.C. § 132 has not been received. Thus, a period of adjustment of patent term due to examination delay is accruing in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.703(a)(1).

If there are any matters that can be cleared up through a telephone conversation, please contact the undersigned attorney for Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. Attorneys for Applicant

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The

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Date: 1/5/05

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Attorney Docket No.

017109.0360